



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 9, 1990

Mr. Roger Ray
10252 Hatherleigh Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Mr. Ray:

We appreciate your May 29, 1990, letter to Secretary James D. Watkins where you provide information and personal perspective with regards to the politically sensitive issue of the Department of Energy's (DOE) ongoing Marshall Islands Program.

Let me assure you, the impetus for consolidating the Marshall Islands effort of both the Office of Defense Programs and the Nevada Operations Office is to centralize the necessary resources into one office, the Office of Health, and provide a fresh management perspective to the Marshall Islands Program. The Office of Health, with oversight responsibilities in the areas of radiation protection, epidemiology, and occupational medicine, will bring to bear a broader base of resources to coordinate the required technical and management efforts of the Marshall Islands Program. The Office of Health is dedicated to the health and environmental surveillance of DOE workers, contractors, and members of the public.

On May 2, 1990, the Secretary requested that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) undertake a study to analyze independently the radiological status and habitability of the Rongelap Islands. The NAS has referred the request to their National Research Council's Board on Radiation Effects Research. This will be yet another independent, scientific examination to validate the technical basis for DOE's actions.

Your continued interest and historical information concerning the Marshall Islands Program is appreciated. The Program Manager for the Marshall Islands Program within the Office of Health is Dr. Robert Goldsmith (EH-42). Please feel free to contact Dr. Goldsmith with any additional information that you feel may be of use to the Office of Health in their management of the Marshall Islands Program.

Sincerely,

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Peter N. Brush
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health